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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT  
AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): H. SASAKI, ET AL

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

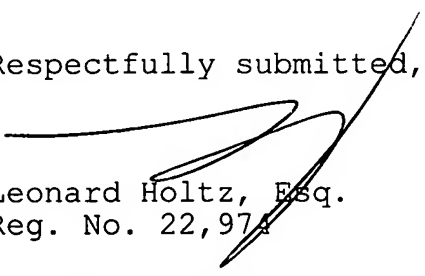
S I R :

Submitted herewith is a copy of each of the publications  
identified on attached Patent Office form PTO/SB/08A.

Japanese KOKAI Publication No. 11-231222 and Japanese KOKAI  
Publication No. 2000-206415 are mentioned on pages 3-4 of the  
specification.

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider the  
publications submitted herewith and make them of record. It is  
further requested that the Examiner return an initialed copy of  
the attached form PTO/SB/08A to confirm that the publications  
listed therein have been made of record.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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